UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEW ENGLAND

June 19, 2000

Scovill Industrial Landfill
A Proposed Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the former Scovill Industrial Landfill located north of Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT to the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL, also known as Superfund, is a list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for Federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program. The goal of the Superfund program is to protect you and the environment from the effects of hazardous substances.

Site History

The 30-acre site was used by the Scovill Manufacturing Company from 1919 until the mid-1970s for disposal of ash, cinder, and other wastes generated at the nearby Scovill Manufacturing facility. Approximately 23 acres have been developed comprising two-and three-story residential structures and small commercial buildings, including a landscaping firm, adult daycare facility, social club, department store, cab service, medical office, car repair shop, and a shopping plaza.

The remaining 7-acre parcel is undeveloped and was in the initial stages of development when industrial wastes were found. Construction was halted.

What's Been Done?

In Spring 1998, 2,300 tons of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil and an additional 18 capacitors were removed from the surface of the 7-acre parcel by the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The area was temporarily capped with a backfill of a foot of top soil, hydro-seeded, and then four acres were fenced and posted.

Three areas of recent excavations were noted in January 1999, prompting CT DEP to sample the material and partially clean it up in March 1999.

In April 1999, EPA conducted sampling from the parcel and surrounding area. Surface soil (0-6 inches) and subsurface soil (6 - 24 inches) samples each were collected from 57 locations. Soil samples showed elevated levels of organic chemicals; metals such as cadium, nickel, silver, and zinc; and PCBs. Indoor air sampling was also taken in six basements to see if contaminants from landfill material were moving into buildings. None were detected in the indoor air.

Based on the April 1999 sampling, elevated levels of certain contaminants were discovered outside of the fenced area. The fence was extended in December 1999.

What do you think?

A 60-day public comment period, **ending July 10, 2000**, provides the public with the chance to comment on the proposed listing of the Scovill Industrial Landfill as a Superfund site.

Send written comments - original and three copies-

By postal mail:
Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. EPA CERCLA Docket Office (Mailcode 5201G)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

By express mail:
Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. EPA CERCLA Docket Office
1235 Jefferson Davis Highway
Crystal Gateway #1, First Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

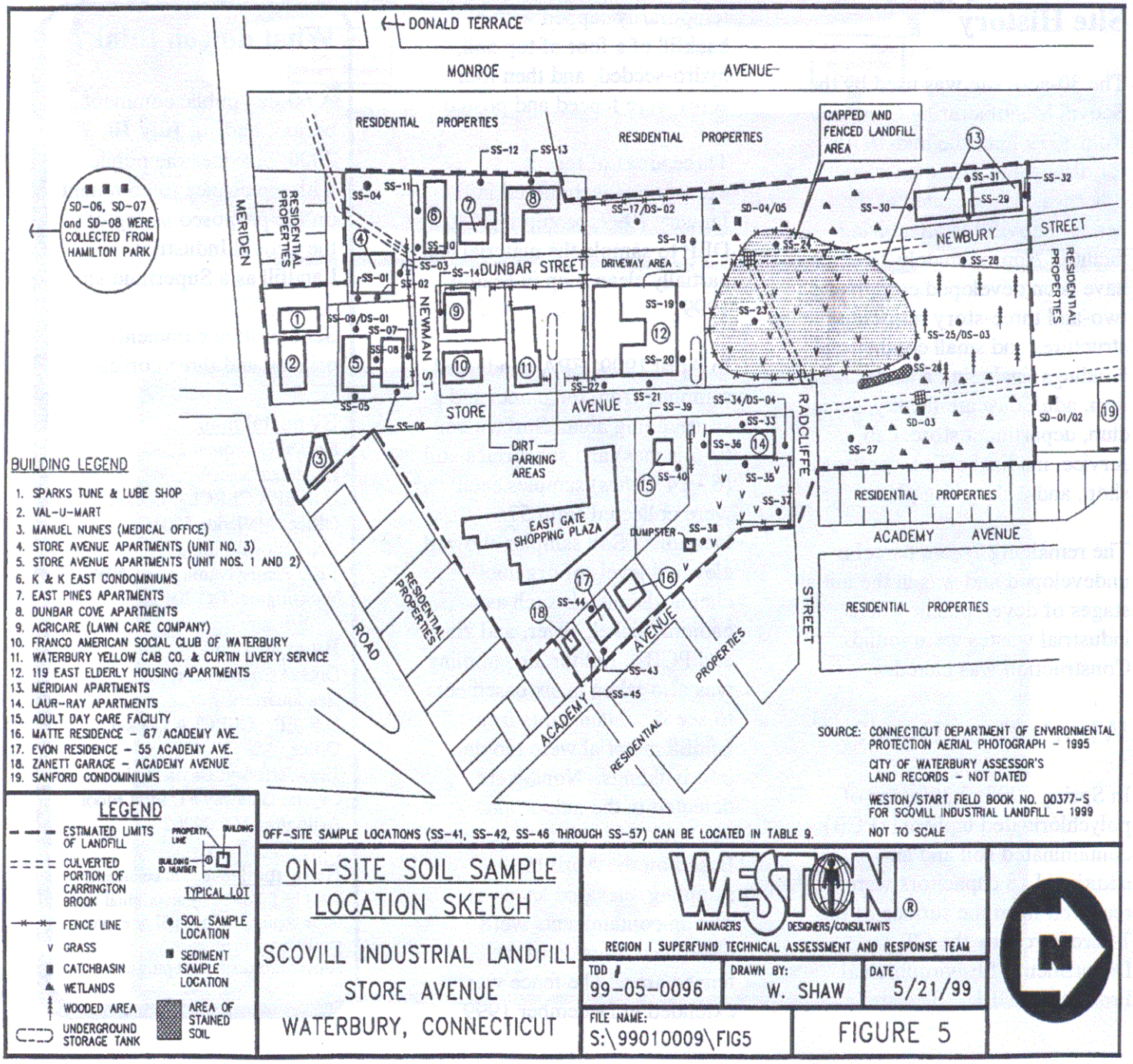
By e-mail (e-mailed comments must be followed by an original and three copies sent by mail or express mail):
superfund.docket@epa.gov

Are There Health Concerns?

Exposure occurs when people eat, breath or have direct skin contact with a substance or waste material. At the Scovill landfill site, the most likely way in which people could be exposed is through direct contact with the landfill material. At present, much of the material is covered either with a building, paved road, parking lot, or grass.

Direct contact is unlikely and therefore, in its current condition, the site does not present an immediate public health risk. Should the conditions change, exposure may become possible, hence it is important that digging, gardening or other activities that might expose landfill material not occur.

By becoming a Superfund site, the area that was the former Scovill Industrial Landfill would undergo further investigation to better understand the extent and type of contamination. Such an investigation would include a risk assessment of human and ecological risks under all types of site conditions - including worst case scenarios like exposure due to digging to fix water main breaks. Currently it is unknown what health risks exists for exposure to materials deeper than 24 inches.



What Should Neighbors Expect if the Area becomes a Superfund Site?

The Superfund process is conducted in several phases that lead to the ultimate goal of cleaning up the site and providing a safe environment for the people living and working around it. Throughout the process, there is opportunity for community involvement.

One: A detailed study, the **Remedial Investigation**, is done to identify the cause and extent of contamination at the site and the possible threats to the environment and the people nearby. A **Feasibility Study** identifies options for cleaning up the site.

Typically the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study take around two years to complete.

Two: EPA uses this information to develop and present a **Proposed Plan for Long-term Cleanup** to citizens and to local and state officials for comment. The proposed plan describes the various cleanup options under consideration and identifies the option EPA prefers. The community has at least 30 days to comment and is able to discuss the plan with EPA during a public meeting.

Three: Once the public's concerns are addressed, EPA publishes a **Record of Decision**, which describes how it plans to clean up the site. A notice is also placed in the local newspaper to inform the community of the cleanup decision.

Four: Next, the cleanup method is designed to address the unique conditions at the site where it will be used. This is called the **Remedial Design** and usually takes a year to complete.

The design and actual cleanup is conducted by EPA, the state, or by the parties responsible for the contamination at the site. If EPA does not perform the design, it closely oversees this design phase and the development of the cleanup at the site. When the design is completed, EPA prepares and distributes a fact sheet to the community describing the design and the action that will take place at the site.

Five: How long the **cleanup** actually takes depends on how the site needs to be cleaned and the extent of the problem. EPA will make sure the people living and working around the site are protected now and in the future. EPA regularly monitors every Superfund site to make sure it remains safe. If there is any indication that there is a problem, action will be taken to make the site safe again.

Who Pays for the Cleanup?

Superfund is either paid for by the people and businesses responsible for contamination or by the Superfund trust fund. Under the Superfund law, EPA is able to make those companies and individuals responsible for contamination at a Superfund site perform, and pay for, the cleanup work at the site. EPA negotiates with the responsible parties to get them to pay for the plans and the work that has to be done to clean up the site. If an agreement cannot be reached, EPA issues orders to responsible parties to make them clean up the site under EPA supervision. Superfund ensures that the parties responsible for the pollution pay to fix the problems they created. EPA may also use Superfund trust fund money to pay for cleanup costs, then attempt to get the money back through legal action.

What Assistance is Available to the Community?

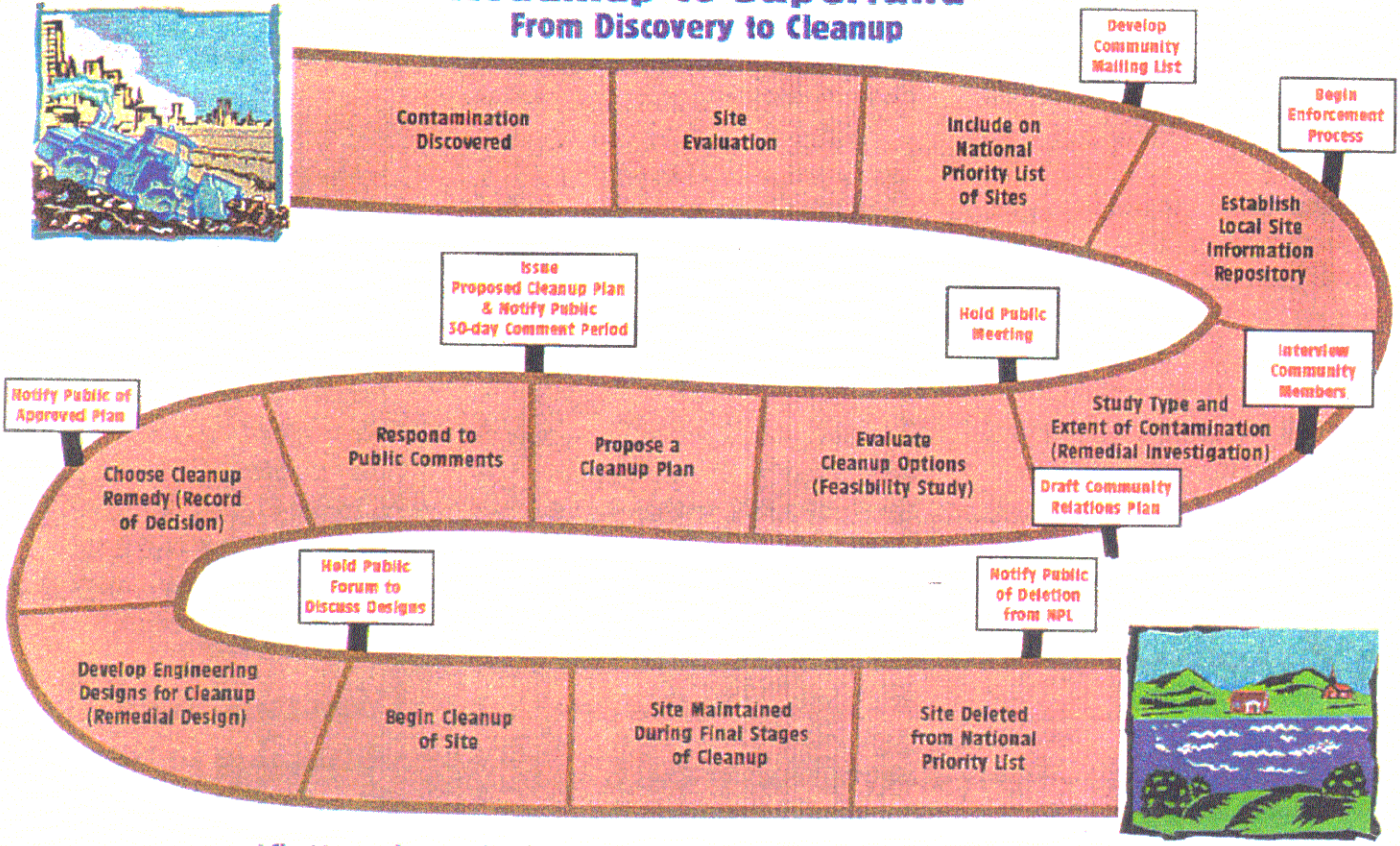
EPA values your input and wants to help you understand the technical information relating to the cleanup of Superfund sites in your community so that you can make informed decisions.

Under the Superfund law, EPA can award Technical Assistance grants (TAGs) of up to $50,000 per site. TAGs allow communities to hire an independent expert to help them interpret technical data, understand site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that are being used.

Your community group may be eligible for a TAG if you are affected by a site that is or proposed to be added to Superfund. The EPA Community Involvement Coordinator can provide more information.

Roadmap to Superfund

From Discovery to Cleanup



* Short-term actions may be taken to eliminate immediate public health or environmental threats.

Updated 11/18/96

For More Information Contact

For site information:

Carolyn Pina-Springer
EPA Remedial Project Manager
1-888-372-7341
pina.carolyn@epa.gov

Michael McDaniel
CT DEP Project Manager
860-424-3798
michael.mcdaniel@po.state.ct.us

Stacy Greendlinger
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
1-888-372-7341
greendlinger.stacy@epa.gov

Silas Bronson Library
267 Grand St., Waterbury
203-574-8225
M-W 9 am -9 pm. Th-Fri 9am -5:30pm

For health information:

Jennifer Kertanis
CT Dept. of Public Health
860-509-7742
jennifer.kertanis@po.state.ct.us

Dr. Dada Jabbour
Dir. of Hazardous Materials
City of Waterbury Dept. of Public Health
203-574-6998